

Defining the Range of Alternatives for BDCP Draft EIR/EIS

June 15, 2010 –BECT Presentation

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JUNE 15, 2010

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Overview of Presentation

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- Identification of Initial Alternative Concepts
- Development and application of screening criteria
- Range of alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the BDCP Draft EIR/EIS

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Identification of Initial Alternative Concepts

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- Concepts in the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent
- Concepts identified during Scoping Process
 - Over 1,051 comments related to alternatives
 - Requests to include concepts described in 2007 and 2008 reports by Public Policy Institute of California
 - Request to include concepts presented to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
- Concepts included in BDCP Steering Committee handouts over past four years

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All Initial Alternative Concepts include Three Components

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- Restoration Components
- Measures to Reduce Other Stressors Components
- Conveyance Components
 - Isolated Conveyance
 - Dual Conveyance
 - Through Delta Conveyance

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Isolated Conveyance Concepts

- Central Delta Pipeline **DRAFT**
- Eastern Unlined and Lined Canal
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to San Joaquin River near Mossdale
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to EBMUD and SFPUC
- Western Unlined and Lined Canal
- Western Unlined Canal plus use of Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel
- Eastern Foothill Unlined Canal from Sacramento River near Verona

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Dual Conveyance Concepts

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- Central Delta Pipeline/Tunnel
- Eastern Unlined and Lined Canal
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to San Joaquin River near Mossdale
- Western Unlined and Lined Canal
- Western Unlined Canal plus use of Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel
- Eastern Foothill Unlined Canal from Sacramento River near Verona

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Through Delta Conveyance Concepts

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- Continued use of existing water supply systems
 - Levee armoring and new setback levees along South Fork Mokelumne and Middle rivers and Victoria Canal
 - ~~Minimal or no maintenance to mManage~~ Delta for habitat, not local or SWP/CVP water supplies
- Separate Corridors
 - Water supply corridor along Mokelumne and Middle rivers and fish movement corridor along Old River
- Use of existing water supply systems with Delta salt water barrier installed near Benicia Bridge

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Multiple-Step Screening Criteria Process

- First and Second Screening Levels
 - Defining alternatives under CEQA and NEPA
- Third Screening Level
 - Defining “potentially feasible alternatives” under CEQA and “reasonable alternatives” under NEPA
- Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act requirements
- ~~Consideration of alternative concepts identified during scoping by CEQA responsible agencies and NEPA cooperating agencies raised during scoping~~

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First and Second Screening Levels

- First Screening Level
 - Could the potential **DRAFT** alternative concept meet the Purpose Statements projects purpose/objectives in Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent?
- Second Screening Level
 - Under CEQA, consider: Would the potential alternative avoid or substantially lessen any of the expected significant environmental effects of the proposed project?
 - Under NEPA, consider: Would the potential alternative address one or more significant issues related to the proposed action?

~~Does not need to comply with both CEQA and NEPA~~

Third Screening Level

- Could the potential alternative concept be “feasible” under CEQA? **DRAFT**
 - Capable of being accomplished in reasonable time period taking into account economic, legal, social, and technological factors?
- Could the potential alternative concept be “reasonable” under NEPA?
 - Practical or feasible from technical or economic standpoint?

CEQA and NEPA allows consideration of a reasonable balance of environmental, economic, social, and technical factors and legal feasibility under species protection laws and other laws

Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act

- Do alternatives provide a reasonable range of:
 - Flow criteria? Diversion rates?
 - Other operational criteria to satisfy the criteria of approval as a Natural Community Conservation Plan?
 - Hydrologic conditions?
- Does the range of alternatives include a:
 - Through Delta Conveyance alternative?
 - Dual Conveyance alternative?
 - Isolated Conveyance alternative?
 - Dual or Isolated Conveyance – Lined Canal alternative?
 - Dual or Isolated Conveyance – Unlined Canal alternative?
 - Pipeline/Tunnel Conveyance alternative?

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Consideration of Responsible/Cooperating Agencies Scoping Comments

- Does range of alternatives include:
 - Broad range of water quality objectives and operational strategies?
 - Potential interim changes to SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan?
 - Long-term changes to SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan with and without new conveyance facilities?
 - Reduced diversions lower than diversions allowed in USFWS and NMFS biological opinions to assure continued existence of the species and some level of rehabilitation for estuary?
 - Delta outflows, and potentially inflows, that reflect a more natural hydrograph than current SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan?

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Development of Range of Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail in Draft EIR/EIS

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- Applied the screening criteria to the range of alternative concepts to identify the alternatives for Draft EIR/EIS
- All alternatives in Draft EIR/EIS address conveyance, capacity, operations, restoration, and other stressors components

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Array of Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail in Draft EIR of June 15, 2010

Move to become 3rd column

ALTERNATIVE	NORTH DELTA DIVERSION CAPACITY (cfs)	OPERATIONAL CRITERIA	RESTORATION AND OTHER STRESSORS
Alternative 1 – Dual Conveyance	15,000	Pipeline/Tunnel	Per BDCP Proposed Project (2/11/10 BDCP Handout)
		East Unlined	
		East Lined	
		West Unlined	
		West Lined	
Alternative 2 – Dual Conveyance	6,000	Pipeline/Tunnel	Same as Alternative 1
Alternative 3 – Isolated Conveyance	15,000	Pipeline/Tunnel	Similar to Alternative 1 with Fall X2
		East Unlined	
		East Lined	
		West Unlined	
		West Lined	
Alternative 4 – Dual Conveyance: Enhanced Aquatic Conservation	12,000 To be Determined	Pipeline/Tunnel	Modified from Alternative 1
Alternative 5 – Through Delta Conveyance: Separate Corridors	15,000	Through Delta Channel Modifications	Modified from Alternative 1

This array of alternatives is preliminary and subject to change based upon information developed/reviewed during impact assessment

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